

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 and 23 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended for clarification purposes. Claim 1 is also amended to recite additional structural features of the titanium alloy, and has support in the specification on pages 5-6. Claim 23 is added, and has support in the specification at page 13. No new matter is added.

I. Interview Summary

Applicants appreciate the courtesies shown to Applicants' representative by Examiner Miller in the September 9, 2008 personal interview. Applicants' separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

II. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-9 and 11-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 3,395,027 (Klotz) in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,434,813 (Bomberger). Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Klotz and Bomberger in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,803,990 (Mosser), U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0107133 (Trocynski) and U.S. Patent No. 3,857,717 (Wydra). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

During the interview, Applicants indicated to the Examiner that Bomberger does not disclose using the titanium alloy substrate, recited in claim 1, in corrosive environments at temperatures above 650°C. The Office Action asserts that col. 3, line 63 to col. 4, line 6 of Bomberger, discloses a temperature of 1200°C. However, as indicated during the interview, the 1200°C temperature is used for the formation of a product that is asserted to be the titanium substrate. As further discussed during the interview, the formation of a product is not the same as a formed product that is used in a corrosive environment at temperatures above 650°C. Claim 1 has been amended to clarify this distinction.

Claim 1 is also amended to recite structural features of the titanium alloy that is part of the titanium alloy substrate. Neither Bomberger, or the other references disclose these additional structural features.

Thus, claim 1 is allowable over Klotz and Bomberger, and is allowable over any possible combination of these references with Mosser, Trocynski, and Wydra. Claims 2-12 depend from claim 1 and are therefore also patentable over the applied references for at least the reasons enumerated above, as well as for the additional features they recite. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

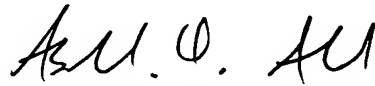
New claim 23 also depends from claim 1, and is patentable over the applied references for at least the reasons enumerated above, as well as for the additional features it recites.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-12, and 23 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: October 10, 2008

Attachment:
Request for Continued Examination (RCE)

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